

Commercial Vehicles

9.000 Introduction

This chapter contains information regarding registration of commercial vehicles.

9.005 Commercial Vehicle Definitions

Commercial Vehicle (VC §260)—A commercial vehicle is a vehicle required to be registered which is used or maintained for the transportation of persons for hire, compensation, or profit or designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property. The following vehicles may be registered as passenger or commercial:

- Multipurpose vehicles. Refer to Section 9.050.
- Passenger-type vehicles transporting persons for hire.
- Pickup trucks with a camper permanently attached. Refer to Section 9.065.
- Station wagons. Refer to Section 9.055.

NOTE: A bus (VC 233) **is** a commercial vehicle **when** it is used to transport persons for hire, compensation, or profit **or** when bus transportation is supplied by a profit-making entity and a customer ends up paying for the bus service as part of the overall consideration for the primary service. Refer to Section 9.050.

Motor Truck (VC §410)—A motor truck or motortruck is a motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

Pickup Truck (VC §471)—A pickup truck is a motor truck with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of less than 11,500 pounds, an unladen weight of **less than 8,001 pounds**, and which is equipped with an open box-type bed less than nine (9) feet in length. Pickup truck does not include a motor vehicle, otherwise meeting the above definition, that is equipped with a bed-mounted storage compartment commonly called a utility body.

9.005 Definitions, continued

The *California Code of Regulations* (Title 13) §150.04 further defines **pickup trucks**:

(a) Pursuant to Section 471 of the *Vehicle Code*, any motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, or motorized quadricycle, with an open box type bed not exceeding nine feet in length is by definition a pickup. Examples of this type of motor vehicle include the Ford Explorer Sport Trac, Nissan Frontier, and other similarly designed vehicles.

(b) Pursuant to Section 471 of the *Vehicle Code*, any motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, or motorized quadricycle, that may be configured or reconfigured to provide an open box type bed not exceeding nine feet in length is by definition a pickup. Examples of this type of motor vehicle include the Chevrolet Avalanche and similarly designed vehicles.

Pickup Exclusions—The following trucks are **not** pickups:

- Trucks with an open box-type bed that weigh more than 8,001 pounds unladen or exceed the manufacturer's GVWR of 11,500 pounds. ("Varied" body type)
- Trucks equipped with a bed-mounted storage compartment unit commonly called a utility body. ("Utility" body type)
- Trucks with a body type other than an open box bed (stake, flatbed, dump, etc.).

4-Door Pickup Trucks—These vehicles have a body constructed with an open box-type bed which requires them to be registered as pickups (commercial vehicles). Examples of such vehicles include, but are not limited to, Ford Explorer Sport Trac, Nissan Frontier, Chevrolet Avalanche, and Lincoln Blackwood.

Tow Truck (VC §615)—A tow truck is a motor vehicle which has been altered or designed and equipped for, and primarily used in the business of, transporting vehicles by means of a crane, hoist, tow bars, tow line, or dolly or is otherwise primarily used to render assistance to other vehicles. A roll-back carrier designed to carry up to two vehicles is also a tow truck. Tow truck **does not** include an automobile dismantler's tow vehicle.

NOTE: Tow trucks used to assist the motoring public or to tow or carry impounded vehicles are subject to CVRA fees. The tow truck's declared weight shall be based on its gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), not a combined gross vehicle weight. Refer to Section 9.200 for CVRA information.

Truck Tractor (VC §655)—A truck tractor is a motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the vehicle weight and load so drawn. As used in this section, "load" does not include items carried on the truck tractor in conjunction with the vehicle operation if the load carrying space for these items does not exceed 34 square feet.

The addition of living quarters to a truck tractor **does not** permanently alter it for human habitation. The living quarters are secondary or incidental to the primary function of the vehicle, which is still drawing other vehicles.

9.005 Definitions, continued

Water-Well Drilling Rigs—There are three types of water-well drilling rigs:

- **Agricultural**—Are exempt from weight fees and issued auto plates. (VC §9405)
- **Oversize**—Oversize water-well drilling rigs which move occasionally over the highways, used primarily off the highways for construction purposes, and require a permit issued by CALTRANS are special construction equipment and may be issued Special Equipment (SE) plates. (VC §565)
- **All Others**—All other water-well drilling rigs **are commercial vehicles** and subject to the weight fees set forth in VC Sections 9400 or 9400.1.
 - The weight of the well-drilling machinery *is excluded* from the vehicle weight for purposes of calculating weight fees under VC §9400.
 - The weight of the well-drilling machinery shall be considered part of the load when calculating weight range fees under VC §9400.1.

NOTE: Water-well drilling rigs were previously defined as “cranes.”

Commercial Vehicle Exclusions—The following are **not** commercial vehicles:

- Vanpool vehicles as defined in *Vehicle Code* §668.
- Housecars or motorhomes.
- Passenger vehicles that **are not** used for the transportation of persons for hire, compensation, or profit.
- Trailer coaches. Trailer coaches may transport property, but are designed **primarily** for human habitation or human occupancy.
- Military equipment operated by non civilian personnel, which is owned or operated by the U.S. Department of Defense, including the National Guard.
- Implements of husbandry operated by someone **not** required to have a driver license.

9.010 Weight Certificate (B&PC §§12700, 12711, and 12714–12715)

A California-certified public weighmaster’s weight certificate may be required to complete a commercial vehicle application. The registration application **must** show the vehicle weight in pounds. If the vehicle weight shown on the weight certificate is in tons and fractions of a ton (for example, 02 10 = 2.1 tons), convert the ton weight to pound weight by multiplying the ton weight by 2000 (pounds in one ton).

A weight certificate must contain the following information:

- The name of the public weigh master as shown on the weigh master’s license.
- The vehicle license number **or** identification number (VIN) and the unladen (or TARE) weight of the vehicle.

9.010 Weight Certificate, continued

- The date and city/town where signed, and the certification: “This is to certify that the following described commodity was weighed, measured, or counted by public weigh masters, and their signature is a recognized authority of accuracy as prescribed by Chapter 7, Division 5 of the *California Business and Professions Code* (B&PC—commencing with §12700), administered by the Division of Measurement Standards of the Department of Food and Agriculture.”

The department will also accept a certificate that shows “private” weighmaster and refers to Chapter 7.3 of Division 5 of the *California Business and Professions Code* **or** a Weights & Measures Certificate of Inspection form or other official statement for a municipal vehicle weighed by Weights & Measures officials.

9.015 Weight Certificate for Multiple Identical Vehicles

One weight certificate is acceptable for multiple new or used commercial vehicles of the identical make, size, and equipment submitted together and at the same time. The applications without a weight certificate **must include** a Statement of Facts (REG 256) that the vehicle is identical to and of the same weight classification as shown on the weight certificate submitted for (*vehicle identification number of the vehicle with a weight certificate*).

9.020 Out-of-State Weight Certificates

A weight certificate from Oregon, Nevada, or Arizona is acceptable when the closest weigh station is in one of these states. A weight certificate from another state is acceptable **only** for a vehicle **not** physically located in California at the time of registration.

9.025 Weight Certificate Exceptions

A weight certificate **is not** required for:

- New commercial vehicles weighing 8,000 pounds or less unladen **and** new trailers weighing 3,000 pounds or less unladen sold by California-licensed dealers. The dealer must certify to the unladen weight on the Application for Registration of New Vehicle (REG 397).
- Trailers or semi-trailers registered under the Permanent Trailer Identification (PTI) Program. The estimated weight **is** required.
- Two-axle or three-axle motor vehicles weighing 10,001 pounds or more. The estimated weight **is** required.
- Vehicles previously registered in California when the prior California commercial registration shows the weight and axle information **and** the application includes a Statement of Facts (REG 256) stating no changes have been made to the vehicle.

9.025 Weight Certificate Exceptions, continued

- Nonresident commercial vehicles with an unladen weight of 6,000 pounds or less, if the nonresident title or registration indicates “empty, unladen, or shipping” weight.

NOTE: The term “scale” as shown on the State of Washington title or registration is acceptable as the unladen weight. The weight shown on the Texas title is the empty (unladen) weight.

9.030 Unladen Weight (VC §660)

Unladen weight (sometimes shown as TARE weight) is defined as the weight of a vehicle equipped and ready for operation on the road **and** includes:

- Body, fenders, permanently attached boxes and body parts.
- Oil in the motor, radiator full of water, weight of five gallons of gasoline.
- Any machinery, equipment or attachment which is attendant to the efficient operation of the body or vehicle.

9.035 Exclusions from Unladen Weight

The unladen weight **does not** include:

- Any load, such as sand, gravel, water, etc. A load is usually a product being transported from one place to another.
- Any machinery, equipment, or attachment which **is not** attendant to the efficient operation of the body or vehicle. This includes, but **is not** limited to:

Wood Saws—Only the saw and the motor that runs the saw are exempt.

Well Drilling Machines—Only the boom is exempt.

Spray Apparatus—Only the tank is exempt.

Tow Truck Crane—Only the weight of the crane and the equipment to operate the crane are exempt. Exempt equipment may include the motor, gears, hydraulic pumps, levers, and any attachments to the vehicle which are directly involved in the operation of the crane.

NOTE: Roll-back wreckers and wheel lift wreckers **do not** have tow crane equipment installed and **are not** eligible for the weight fee exemption. (VC §§660, 661)

Tow Truck—A motor vehicle which has been altered or designed and equipped for, and primarily used in the business of transporting vehicles by means of a crane, hoist, tow bar, tow line, or dolly or is otherwise primarily used to render assistance to other vehicles. “Tow Truck” **does not** include a tow vehicle registered to a licensed dismantler and used exclusively to tow vehicles owned by that dismantler in the course of the automobile dismantling business. (VC §615)

NOTE: The “roll-back” equipment on a tow truck **is not** exempt from weight fees.

9.035 Exclusions from Unladen Weight, continued

Grinding Equipment—Only the grinder portion and the equipment to operate the grinder are exempt.

- Any machinery, equipment, or attachment specifically excluded from unladen weight by VC §661. Statute specifically excludes the following equipment which is attendant to the efficient operation of the body or vehicle to which it is attached:
 - Any camper unit temporarily attached to a vehicle.
 - Equipment used for loading, compacting, or unloading of refuse.
 - Temporary equipment used to contain or support the load which **does not** change the body classification. For example, side stakes on a truck to contain the load or chains used to tie down a load.
 - Concrete transit-mixer—**Only** the machinery or equipment that actually mixes and dispenses the mixed cement is exempt such as the drum, the motor that turns the drum, the mixing blades, and the motor reduction gear.
 - Refrigeration equipment—**Only** the refrigeration equipment is exempt. Refrigeration equipment includes the compressor, compressor motor, condenser, and the cover enclosing the unit. The exemption **does not** extend to the van body.

Weight Certificate Includes Weight of Excluded Equipment—If the weight certificate is for the complete vehicle, submit a Statement of Facts (REG 256) giving the estimated weight of the equipment that should be excluded from the unladen weight with the application. Determine the base vehicle weight by subtracting the estimated weight of the exempt equipment from the total weight of the complete vehicle.

NOTE: This weight exclusion **does not** apply when calculating the gross/combined gross operating weight of the vehicle and its load.

Reference: Section 9.100

9.040 Weight Fees (VC §9400)

Commercial vehicles are subject to a weight fees in addition to the registration and vehicle license fees. The weight fee amount is determined based on the vehicle's unladen weight and number of axles. Refer to the Fees appendix, Appendix 1F, for Weight Fee Schedules.

9.045 Commercial Registration for Passenger-Type Vehicles (VC §260)

A passenger-type vehicle that transports passengers “for hire” **is required** to be registered as a commercial vehicle and display commercial license plates. This includes a taxi, rental limousine, or ambulance that transports persons for compensation or profit, and buses when operated as explained below.

Passenger vehicles that transport property for hire **cannot** be registered commercially.

EXCEPTION: Commercial registration may be obtained for:

- a multipurpose vehicle.
- a station wagon or a hatchback vehicle owned and registered to a bona fide business or in certain specific instances.

Buses—A bus is any vehicle, including a trailer bus, designed, used, or maintained for carrying more than 15 persons including the driver **and/or** a vehicle designed, used, or maintained for carrying more than 10 persons, including the driver, used to transport persons for compensation or profit **or** by any nonprofit organization or group. (VC §233)

A bus **is** a commercial vehicle **when** it is used to transport persons for hire, compensation, or profit **or** when bus transportation is supplied by a profit-making entity and a customer ends up paying for the bus service as part of the overall consideration for the primary service.

NOTE: A charter-party carrier operating limousines that pick up and deliver airport passengers **must be** issued special “Livery” identification plates. Refer to Section 14.065 for requirements.

9.050 Multipurpose Vehicles

Multipurpose vehicles are vehicles designed primarily as passenger vehicles which also have a limited cargo carrying capability. For example; the Jeep, Bronco, Blazer, Scout, and Jimmy. Any of these vehicles with a permanently attached top may be issued auto or commercial license plates.

A vehicle owner may obtain commercial registration for a multipurpose vehicle at any time by submitting the Certificate of Title, registration card, and a weight certificate to the department.

9.055 Station Wagons (VC §9404)

A station wagon, as defined in VC §585, is a dual purpose vehicle designed for transportation of persons in such a manner that the seats may be removed or folded out of the way for the purpose of increasing the vehicle's property carrying space.

A *hatchback-type vehicle* with a rear seat that folds down or is removable and a door in the rear that provides direct access to the vehicle's interior cargo-carrying area when the seat is folded down or removed may be considered a station wagon.

Station wagons are **not** required or permitted to be registered as commercial vehicles **except** when:

- used to transport persons for hire.
- used by an owner who is **engaged in business** and registered to the business.
- the owner certifies that he/she is required to own and operate a station wagon registered to him/her as a requirement of his/her employment at a bona fide business.

Engaged in Business means engaged in a bona fide trade, business, commerce, or a profession licensed for the measurement of land, construction quantities, or the dimension of structures. It **does not** include any other type of profession.

In addition to the usual registration requirements, the application **must** include:

- A Statement for Securing Commercial Registration (REG 590) completed by the buyer. If the buyer's name is the business name, that must be noted on the REG 590.
- A weight certificate **or** the dealer's certification on the Application for Registration of New Vehicle (REG 397) for a **new** station wagon with an unladen weight of 8,000 pounds or less.

9.060 Housecars (VC §362)

A housecar is a motor vehicle originally designed, or permanently altered, and equipped for human habitation, or to which a camper has been **permanently** attached.

Motorhomes, pickups with a camper attached, and van campers are motorhomes for registration purposes. Truck tractors with living quarters and horse trailers with an area equipped for human habitation **are not** housecars and **cannot be** registered as such.

In addition to the usual registration documents required, the application **must** include a Certification of Vehicle for Human Habitation (REG 256A). (This is used to determine the type of housecar being registered.) The value of any added equipment, the camper, and "camper axle" if one is attached, **must be** included in the vehicle value for vehicle license fee (VLF) classification.

The REG 256A may be completed by the dealer or the buyer/owner.

9.065 Pickup with a Camper Attached

A commercial vehicle with a camper **permanently** attached meets the definition of a housecar (VC §362) and may be registered as a passenger vehicle. The buyer should be advised that any use of the pickup without the camper is a violation of the law and he/she may be cited by law enforcement. Weight fees **are not** due and auto plates are issued. In addition to the usual registration and/or transfer requirements:

- The cost of the vehicle **must** include the pickup and the camper.
- The buyer must complete a Certification of Vehicle for Human Habitation (REG 256A) certifying the camper is **permanently** attached.

A pickup with a camper **temporarily** attached is a commercial vehicle and the camper is a load. Weight fees **are** due and commercial plates are issued. The cost of the vehicle is of the pickup **only**.

9.070 Multiple Bodies

When the buyer of a heavy duty commercial vehicle wants to use two or more bodies in conjunction with a single cab and chassis or chassis, the additional requirements are:

- The cost of the vehicle **must include** the total cost of **all** new bodies and/or value of **all** used bodies, or a combination of both, with the cost of the cab/chassis or chassis.
- The vehicle **must be** weighed with the heaviest of all the multiple bodies.
- The weight fees **are** based on the heaviest weight.

9.075 Body Changes and Other Alterations (VC §9406 and R&TC §10753)

Alterations and/or additions to a registered used commercial vehicle which places the vehicle into a different weight classification must be reported to the department.

(VC 9406) If the altered commercial vehicle falls into a higher weight classification, additional weight fees are due the date of first operation after the alteration/addition which placed it into the higher class. The department cannot refund weight fees if the altered vehicle falls into a lower weight class.

The requirements for reporting the change to the department are:

- The Certificate of Title **or** an Application for Duplicate Title (REG 227).
- A vehicle verification (done after the change/alteration is completed).
- A Vehicle Body Change Statement (REG 256) completed by the vehicle owner **and** evidence of ownership for the added parts. This may be the originals or copies of bills of sale, invoices, sales slips, etc. A bond may be required if the owner does not have the required evidence of ownership.

NOTE: An owner who removes a used body from one owned vehicle and places it on another owned vehicle, must explain those facts on a REG 256 which includes the license number of the vehicle from which the body was removed.

9.075 Body Changes and Other Alterations, continued

- A weight certificate issued after the change/alteration is completed.
- Additional weight fees are due if the altered vehicle falls into a higher weight fee class. Determine the weight fee for the remainder of the registration year as follows:
 - Prorate the new weight fee for the remainder of the registration year.
 - Prorate the old weight fee for the remainder of the registration year.
 - Subtract the old prorated weight fee from the new prorated weight fee and the difference is the amount due.

NOTE: Additional weight fees **are not** due when the altered vehicle falls into a lower weight class. A refund of weight fees **cannot** be given.

- If the body change is on a commercial vehicle that operates at 10,001 lbs. or more, a Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (REG 4008) must also be submitted.

Correction of the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) Classification—The vehicle license fee classification must also be corrected when the cost of the alterations/changes to the commercial vehicle is \$2,000 or more. The cost **does not** include any change of engine of the same type or any cost of repairs to the vehicle.

9.080 Credit for Unused Weight Fees (VC §9408)

The owner of a California-registered commercial vehicle withdrawn from service in California before the vehicle's registration expiration date may receive a credit for any unused weight fee amount on another (replacement) vehicle.

NOTE: The CVRA Motor Vehicle Fund Fee **cannot** be prorated or used for weight fee credit calculation.

“Withdrawn from service” means:

- Removal of the vehicle from service with no intention of operating it on the California highways during the remainder of the registration year for which registration is valid.
- The dismantling or junking of a vehicle.

NOTE: Sale of a vehicle **does not** constitute withdrawal from service.

The weight fee credit requirements are:

- The registered owner/lessee for the vehicle withdrawn from service and the vehicle for which the weight fee credit is requested **must** be the same.
- The vehicle owner/lessee must complete a Statement of Facts (REG 256) requesting a weight fee credit for the vehicle is being withdrawn from service.
- The license plates and sticker assigned to the vehicle being withdrawn **must** be surrendered **or** an Application for Plates, Stickers, Documents (REG 156) is required.

9.080 Credit for Unused Weight Fees, continued

NOTE: If the vehicle being withdrawn from service is to be dismantled or junked, the Certificate of Title must also be surrendered.

- The replacement vehicle registration application **must be** made within 90 days of the date the other vehicle is withdrawn from service.
- The credit may be applied to only one replacement vehicle. Weight fee credit in excess of the weight fee due on the replacement vehicle **cannot** be refunded or applied to another vehicle.
- The maximum credit that may be given to a replacement vehicle is the amount of weight fee for the remaining months prorated from the month **following** the month of withdrawal.
- A credit **cannot** be given for the month or months between the time the vehicle is withdrawn and the date the fees are due on the replacement vehicle.

9.085 International Traffic Vehicles

International Traffic Vehicles are heavy duty commercial vehicles which are allowed to import and/or pick up merchandise and leave as expeditiously as possible.

International Traffic Vehicles:

- Enter California for the sole purpose of doing business and **do not** intend to remain in this state.
- **Must** have interstate (commercial) registration.
- **Must** have proof of insurance from a company authorized to do business in California.

Proof of insurance from a company authorized to do business in California showing coverage in the following amounts **must** be presented for commercial vehicles over 7,000 unladen pounds that are base-plated in Mexico or Newfoundland.

(VC §16500.5)

\$250,000 Public Liability Per Person
\$500,000 Public Liability Per Accident
\$100,000 Property Damage
\$600,000 Combined Total Coverage

9.090 Board of Equalization Tax Clearance (R&TC §8995)

A Fuel Tax Clearance (BOE 1138) from the Board of Equalization tax **is required** to transfer a commercial vehicle powered by a fuel **other than gasoline or diesel**, including a nonresident application in the name of someone other than the owner shown on the out-of-state documents and applications for transfer between two exempt agencies (for example, school buses sold between school districts).

EXCEPTION: Passenger vehicles (as described in VC §465), commercial vehicles weighing 7,000 pounds or less unladen, **and** two-axle trucks rented or leased for 30 days or less and used for private transportation without compensation which operate on fuels other than gasoline or diesel are exempt from fuel tax laws and the BOE1138 requirement.

The BOE 1138 is only available from the State Board of Equalization (BOE) headquarters office in Sacramento. The BOE may be contacted by:

telephone at: (916) 322-9669

or

mail at: Fuel Taxes Division
Board of Equalization
450 N St. MIC 30
PO Box 94279-0030
Sacramento, CA 94279-0030

9.095 Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (FHVUT) (VC §4750 and U.S. Code, Title 26, §4481)

Commercial vehicles and buses that weigh 8,001 pounds or more unladen **and/or** operate at a combined gross vehicle weight (CGVW) of 55,000 pounds or more **must** have evidence of payment of, or exemption from, the Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (FHVUT) for registration. The CGVW is the total weight of the power unit, any trailer towed, **and** the weight of the load.

Exclusions—The FHVUT requirement **does not** apply to:

- “Title Only” applications.
- Original or transfer applications in the new owner’s name submitted within 60 days of purchase or transfer.
- A vehicle which **is not** being operated.

Proof of Exemption—Any of the following are acceptable as proof of exemption:

- A Certification of Exemption (REG 213).
- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) stating the vehicle **will not** be operated at a combined gross vehicle weight of 55,000 pounds or more.
- A receipt or photocopy of filed Form 2290 Part II, listing the vehicle as exempt.

9.095 Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (FHVUT), continued

Acceptable Proof of Payment—Any of the following are acceptable as proof of payment of FHVUT upon **renewal** of registration:

- The original or a photocopy of Schedule 1, Form 2290 receipted by the IRS.
- A photocopy of Schedule 1, Form 2290, filed with the IRS **and** a photocopy of the front and back of the canceled check made payable to the IRS for payment of the tax.
- Evidence showing applicant is making payments to IRS.
- The original of the Schedule 1, Form 2290, and a check or money order made payable to the IRS, accompanied by a pre-addressed, stamped envelope to the appropriate IRS office.

9.100 Commercial Vehicle Registration Act of 2001 (CVRA) (VC §§260, 288-9, 400.6, 4150.1, 5204, 9250.10, 9250.13-14, 9250.19, 9400, 9400.1, 9406, 9408, 9554.2, 42030.1)

The Commercial Vehicle Registration Act of 2001 (CVRA) changed the way the department registers commercial motor vehicles.

The fees for commercial motor vehicles registered on or after December 31, 2001, are based either on the unladen weight, the declared gross vehicle weight, or the combined gross vehicle weight. Owners of commercial motor vehicles with an unladen weight of 6,001 lbs. or more will be required to declare the maximum operating weight of their vehicles with a load.

Declared Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)—The weight that equals the total unladen weight of the vehicle **plus** the weight of the heaviest load that will be transported on the vehicle. (Vehicles that haul a load, but do not pull another vehicle.)

Declared Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (CGW)—The weight that equals the total unladen weight of the combination of vehicles (motor truck and trailer) **plus** the heaviest load that will be transported by that combination. (Vehicles that pull another vehicle.)

Motor vehicles with a GVW/CGW of 10,001 lbs. or more are assessed CVRA fees rather than a weight fee. (The vehicle is still subject to the registration fee, vehicle license fee, and any city/county fees. The law enforcement and county fees are higher for vehicles operating at 10,001 lbs. or more. Refer to the City and County Fees appendix, Appendix 1A.)

9.100 Commercial Vehicle Registration Act of 2001 (CVRA), continued

Excluded Vehicles—The following vehicles are excluded from the CVRA:

- *Pickup trucks* continue to be registered by the unladen weight and assessed a weight fee regardless of the vehicle's GVW. (Pickups cannot exceed 8,000 lbs., unladen and must have a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 11,500 lbs.)
- *Light-weight trucks, vans, taxis, and rental limousines* (including charter-party carriers operating limousines that pick up and deliver airport passengers) are registered by the unladen weight only if the vehicle's GVW is 10,000 lbs. or less.
- Commercial motor vehicles registered as special equipment (SE plates) or with exempt license plates are excluded. (These vehicles are not subject to a weight fee or CVRA fees.)

Original and Transfer Registration Requirements—When a new or used commercial motor vehicle is sold, in addition to the usual registration/transfer requirements:

- The unladen weight data must be reported for **all** commercial vehicles (even vehicles subject to CVRA).
- The new owner, lessee, or designee must complete, date, and sign a Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (REG 4008) giving the operating weight of the vehicle.

EXCEPTION: A REG 4008 is **not** required for pickups with an unladen weight of 8,000 lbs. or less.

- Collect the registration fee, city/county fees, vehicle license fee (VLF) **and**:
 - for pickups with an unladen weight of 8,000 lbs. or less and commercial vehicles with a gross operating weight of 10,000 lbs. or less, weight fees based on the unladen weight. Refer to the Fees appendix, Appendix 1F for fees.
 - for commercial vehicles with a gross operating weight of 10,001 lbs. or more, CVRA fees (in lieu of weight fees). Refer to Appendix 1F for fees.

Multiple Vehicle Sales—If multiple identical vehicles are sold to the same owner on an Application for Registration of Multiple New Vehicles (REG 397A), only one REG 4008 (and supplemental list, if necessary) identifying the vehicle identification number (VIN) and operating weight of each vehicle is needed.

If multiple vehicles are sold to the same owner on separate report of sale forms, then:

- Complete one REG 4008 listing each make and VIN (attach supplemental list, if necessary).
- Show the appropriate weight code representing the operating weight of each vehicle.
- Attach the REG 4009 to one of the applications. In the upper portion of the other reports of sale, note the make and VIN of the vehicle with the REG 4008 attached.
- Submit the group of applications together to the department.

9.100 Commercial Vehicle Registration Act of 2001 (CVRA), continued**Additional Information (listed alphabetically)**

- **Auxiliary Dolly/Tow Dolly**—As of 12/31/2001, tow dollies or auxiliary dollies are not required to be registered. The owners can opt to convert the dollies to Permanent Trailer Identification (PTI). Refer to Chapter 29 for PTI registration information.
- **Body Changes**—When a body change occurs on a commercial vehicle that operates at 10,001 lbs. or more, a Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (REG 4008) must be submitted with the application to correct the body type, etc.
- **Certificate of Title/Registration Certificate Weight Information**
 - The Certificate of Title will display only the unladen weight.
 - The registration card will display the unladen weight if the truck is operated at 10,000 lbs. or less unladen and will display the maximum GVW/CGW weight for the declared range for vehicles paying CVRA fees.
- **Changes in Declared Operating Weight**—If the declared operating weight of a vehicle:
 - increases during the registration period, additional CVRA fees are due for the remainder of the year.
 - decreases during a registration period, CVRA fees are **not** refundable. One day of operation at the higher weight causes fees to be due at that weight.
- **CHP and County Fees**—Vehicles subject to CVRA fees pay additional fees for SAFE, Fingerprint, Auto Theft, Abandoned Vehicle, and CHP, as shown in the City and County Fees appendix, Appendix 1A.
- **Equipment Excluded from Unladen Weight**—Certain equipment is excluded when determining the unladen weight of a vehicle (refer to Section 9.035). This exclusion **does not** apply when calculating the gross/combined gross operating weight of the vehicle and its load. (VC §§288 and 289)
- **Equipment Excluded from Weight Declaration (Implements of Husbandry)**—The declared gross weight of a truck subject to CVRA may exclude the gross weight of the towed vehicle when all of the following are true.
 - The vehicle is owned by a farmer and operated by the farmer or his/her employee.
 - It is used only for conducting agricultural business.
 - In that business, the truck pulls (tows) an implement of husbandry or a special equipment (SE) plated vehicle.
- **Tow Trucks**—Tow trucks used to assist the motoring public or to tow or carry impounded vehicles are subject to CVRA fees. The tow truck's declared weight shall be based on its gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), not a combined gross vehicle weight.

